

In the Specification

Please replace the second paragraph on page 8 with the following paragraph

- ii) the one disclosed in US Patent No. ~~4,476,220~~ 6,476,220 for preparation of 7-amino-3- (2-furanylcarbonylthiomethyl)-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid starting from 7-amino cephalosporanic acid and thiofuroic acid, by nucleophilic substitution of the acetoxy function at 3-position of the cephalosporin nucleus in (II) with a thiofuroyl function, as shown hereinbelow.